

New Information appears in red font

JSG intel appears in Italics

1.0 Background Information

JSG is leading response on this issue, including coordination with CBSA and the RCMP to address alternative movements across the border as well as managing the protest, including any enforcement that may be needed to disband the blockade.

The department relies on information that is provided by JSG through corporate channels as well as regional information for the information provided.

The police will determine how and when to apply sanctions under the TSA, the CIDA, and the Criminal Code – and all of those options are being considered.

The police response relies on their assessment of the situation and how to best manage the issue as this situation could easily escalate. Part of that planning and assessment involved ensuring enough resources are at hand if needed (additional law enforcement, equipment etc.)

2.0 Department's Role with Border Interactions or Enforcement

The Department's plays only a supporting role in interactions with border crossing or law enforcement decisions. The department, through our regional Highway Maintenance Contractor, would provide signage and suggest/manage traffic strategies to support the intended actions of law enforcement.

3.0 Current Status

All conditions related to this event are confirmed by the department as follows, at time of reporting:

Strategic traffic checkpoints have been established to re-route southbound traffic away from the Coutts congestion. This also prevents any additional protestors from accessing the main congestion location. RCMP are directing commercial traffic to the other border crossings at Carway on Highway 2, De Bonita on Highway 62, and Wildhorse on Highway 41.

Sheriffs and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) have been engaged and are at strategic locations for the other border crossings to ensure only legitimate commercial traffic passes through.

RCMP are allowing the HMC and department operations staff through the checkpoints to address highway maintenance and operations needs.

JSG does not report blockades on either the Canada or U.S. side at the alternate border crossing locations at this time.

Department discussion with CBSA

- CBSA is reporting about 1200 commercial carriers in and around Sweetgrass area waiting for the Coutts border to open.
- CBSA is working on a plan to clear the backlog of truckers quickly once the border opens.
- Extending service levels at Ports is being discussed at CBSA however matching resources to the Port service will be an issue.
- Carriers will consider the time implications and costs when making decisions as to whether to wait at Coutts or re-route to another port. CBSA reported traffic at Roosville/Grasmere Port just inside BC (Hwy 3) has seen increased traffic over the last few days.
- CBSA reported to the department on the evening of February 1st that Del Bonita and Carway Ports are operating 7 days a week till 10 pm and the US Ports are matching the service levels. However, the hours for Del Bonita, as reported by the website do not reflect this as of the morning of February 2nd.
- The department is reaching out to CBSA on the change and how to ensure we remain apprised of changes to the hours.

Current Ports of Entry Hour per CBA Website as of Time of Reporting

- CBSA Website currently indicates the following hours of operation:
 - Del Bonita has now extended hours of operation to 9am -10pm, Monday to Friday.
 - Carway has have been extended to 8am – 10 pm, seven days a week.

JSG has confirmed that there is no blockade on the U.S. side of the Coutts Border but Transportation has confirmed there are trucks backed up in one lane approaching the border from the U.S.

Communications with AMTA:

- On February 1, RCMP reached out to AMTA to see if there was any opportunity to acquire some tow truck support. AMTA has purposely been quiet for about the last week publicly and will remain neutral. Private tow truck operators may not wish to undertake the work at Coutts for fear of reprisal to their businesses or fear of the situation and their safety.
- AMTA is closely watching protester activity and implications on other routes in/out of Alberta.
- AMTA will be reaching out to their membership to share information on the situation and status of border today.

Media and Social Media

JSG Reported that a group Farmers for Freedom have sent messages via text and other social media asking farmers to lockdown the country and province wide every day until

mandates are lifted. *Starting on Thursday February 3, 2022, at 12 noon for 3 hours. The ask is for every farmer available to hook up implements and to lockdown of every road.*

On February 2, CTV Calgary is reported about "Operation Bear Hug" that is calling for truckers to block major highways in Alberta today. The Reporter says he's heard people are planning to gather at the truck stop on Highway 1 near the Minister's house then park on the highway between Banff/Canmore.

Other Activity Reports from Across the Province:

February 1st, Afternoon 2022:

At 13:00 hrs Transportation confirmed a new blockade Hwy 2 South of Fort Macleod and reports of a potential convoy of farm equipment and tractor trailers heading west on Hwy 3 towards Pincher Creek/CNP

At 14:00 hrs, JSG indicated enforcement action was being taken.

At 15:30 hrs 511 was contacted by the Cardston Shop and advised Highway 509 was obstructed. At about 19:hrs 511 received a Tweet from Blood Tribe Police Service that they had attended the area at 13:40hrs to address a blockade along Highway 2 near the Waterton River Bridge north of Standoff. They conducted traffic until RCMP arrived and started rerouting traffic heading North bound along the Highway 2/509 intersection and advised public to avoid the area traffic until RCMP. At 18:15 another tweet from the Blood Tribe Police Service indicating the blockade was resolved and traffic was flowing.

There is subsequent activity on Alberta Highways as outlined below:

- At 16:00 hrs Region MCI advised RCMP requested barricades to be set up at Highways 4 & 36 Southbound.
- At 16: 01 hrs social media reports observed by the Region indicated the roundabout was clogged up at Highways 23 / 519 with vehicles. The roundabout is a main corridor for accessing Highway 1 to the north and trucks cutting across to Highway 2 to the west.
- At approximately 16:30 hrs 511 received information that Highway 4 was closed at southbound Highway 36 near Warner by the RCMP before 16:30 hrs in anticipation of a convoy. Transportation Region assisted. Additionally, Highway 519 at Highway 23 Nobleford was at a crawl for wildcat convoy.
- At 19:47 hrs Wildcat convoys have been reported and confirmed by Transportation. Transportation has verified slow rolling convoys in Highways 3 & 36 at Town of Taber and also Highway 3 at Grassy Lake.

Milk River Blockade

- *JSG report to Transportation staff indicates protestors are attempting to establish a new blockade at Highway 4 and 501 intersection South of Milk River*

where the RCMP Checkpoint is located. RCMP is requesting an emergency road closure at this location. The department supported the request as needed.

- Both directions still blocked to large vehicles, a small vehicle may possibly make its way through.
- Transportation Region reports that this morning near Milk River, southbound still closed Highway 4 at Highway 501 West but RCMP have closed in both directions due to a collision between a driver, who was not part of the protest, heading northbound on Highway 4 and a protestor who was oriented southbound in the northbound lane
 - The only difference is that some trucks were allowed to cross the border Northbound on Highway 4 earlier. It is also reported by RCMP to Region staff that the weigh scale will be blocked by protesters this morning (February 2, 2022).